

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TAGS: BEXP, VE  
SUBJ: CEMENT PRODUCTION

1. SOME DETAILS HAVE BECOME AVAILABLE ON PROJECTS WHICH ARE INTENDED TO OVERCOME THE SERIOUS VENEZUELAN CEMENT SHORTAGE. THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES ARE PRESENTLY UNDERWAY ON PROJECTS TO YIELD A 40PERCENT INCREASE IN NATIONAL CEMENT PRODUCTION CAPACITY:

A) C.A. FABRICA NACIONAL DE CEMENTOS LA VEGA, OCUMARE DEL TUY, ESTADO MIRANDA, IS INCREASING CAPACITY BY 500 TONS/DAY TO REACH A PROJECTED TOTAL INCREASE OF 1,100 TONS/DAY BY 1977.

B) CONSOLIDADA DE CEMENTOS C.A., VALENCIA, ESTADO CARABOBO, IS ADDING 400 TONS/DAY CAPACITY.

C) C.A. VENCEMOS MARA, MARACAIBO, ESTADO ZULIA, IS INCREASING THEIR PLANT'S CAPACITY BY 800 TONS/DAY.

D) C. A. VENEZOLANA DE CEMENTOS, WITH MAIN OFFICES IN EDIFICIO LAS FUNDACIONES, AVENIDA ANDRES BELLO, CARACAS, IS TO INCREASE CAPACITY OF THEIR PETRIGALETE PLANT BY 800 TONS/DAY.

2. AS SOON AS THESE EXPANSIONS ARE COMPLETED, VENEZUELA'S TOTAL CEMENT PRODUCTION WILL BE 120 MILLION SACKS/YEAR. ASSUMING AN INCREASE IN CONSUPTION AT THE RATE OF 15PERCENT/YEAR, THE NEW, HIGHER NATIONAL CAPACITY IS PROJECTED TO BE ADEQUATE TO NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS UNTIL THE END OF 1978. C.A. VENEZOLANA  
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DE CEMENTOS IS ALREADY CONSIDERING THE INSTALLATION OF ANOTHER

KILN IN ITS PERTIGALETE PLANT, WHICH WOULD HAVE A CAPACITY OF 800,000 TONS/YEAR OF CLINKER. THE PROJECT WOULD COST BS. 250 MILLION.

3. THE PRIVATELY OWNED CEMENT INDUSTRY APPEARS TO HAVE ALREADY CONTRACTED FOR THE PRIMARY EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR THE CURRENT ROUND OF EXPANSION PROJECTS. HOWEVER, THERE MAY STILL BE A MARKET FOR AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT. FURTHERMORE, IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO POSTPONE FURTHER EXPANSION UNTIL 1978 IF ALL PROJECTED GOV PROJECTS ARE UNDERTAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY. AT PRESENT, CEMENT MAY BE IMPORTED DUTY-FREE TO RELIEVE THE NATIONAL SHORTAGE. HOWEVER, THERE ARE REPORTS THAT IMPORTERS ARE BEGINNING TO HAVE DIFFICULTIES FINDING ADEQUATE FOREIGN SUPPLIES. U.S. MANUFACTURES OF EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR CEMENT PRODUCTION ARE THEREFORE URGED TO ESTABLISH LOCAL REPRESENTATION OR OTHERWISE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH VENEZUELAN CEMENT MANUFACTURERS IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO EXPLOIT FAST-BREAKING OPPORTUNITIES.

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